



90th
Anniversary

July 6, 1951

Harmonia Lodge No. 1

Order of the Sons of Hermann

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Celebrated July 15, 1951.

90TH
ANNIVERSARY HARMONIA LODGE
HERMANN SONS

1861
1951

The National Bank of Commerce of San Antonio

... deems it a privilege to extend our heartfelt felicitations in this publication issued to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of Harmonia Lodge No. 1. For nearly a century this important fraternal organization has contributed substantially to the betterment of its members and the community as a whole.

We sincerely wish continued growth and prosperity for Harmonia Lodge!

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90th

Anniversary

Harmonia Lodge No. 1
Order of the Sons of Hermann

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

JULY 6, 1951



A SHORT HISTORY

FROM THE DOCUMENTS AND MINUTES OF HARMONIA LODGE NO. 1
FROM 1861 TO 1951

COMPILED BY

Julius Tengg—Carl C. Wurzbach—Emmett Whitsett



PUBLISHED BY

Harmonia Lodge No. 1 O. D. H. S.
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

A Mighty Oak

The booming guns of the Civil War were faint and far away that summer day of 1861 when Harmonia Lodge was organized by men pioneering in a new land. None could foresee, 90 years ago, what a mighty oak would grow from that tiny acorn of mutual effort planted by men bound in a single cause.



Now spreading its broad and sheltering protection over thousands, the Grand Lodge of the Hermann Sons which grew and flourished from that seed is a tribute to the sound vision of Harmonia Lodge's founders and the splendid work of their successors, now guiding its growth.

This bank, too, was founded by men pioneering in the new land—men with faith in the future of that land and its people . . . men who worked hand in hand with the courageous settlers whose vision and hard work developed this vast territory.

As one lusty "oldster" to another — congratulations on your achievements. May you continue to grow and prosper!

The
GROOS NATIONAL BANK
of San Antonio

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

* ESTABLISHED 1854 *

AN ACT
To incorporate the officers and members
of San Antonio Harmonia Lodge No. 1, O. D.
S. I. G.
Section 1. Be it enacted by the Legislature of
the State of Texas, That the officers and members
of San Antonio Harmonia Lodge No. 1, O. D.
S. I. G. and their successors and future
associates be and they are hereby created
a body politic and corporate, by the
name and style of San Antonio Harmonia
Lodge No. 1, O. D. S. I. G. and by that name
shall be capable of acquiring, holding,
settling and conveying property real,
personal, or mixed; provided, the same
shall not exceed in value, at any one time,
the sum of twenty five thousand dollars
and they may establish and manage
institutions of learning in the usual
manner, and under such rules and
regulations as they may think proper to
make not inconsistent with the
Constitution and general laws of
the State of Texas.
Section 2. That said corporation may
by the name and style of Harmonia see and
be sued, plead and be impleaded and
and be answer, defend and be defended
in all suits, actions, demands, places or
other like cases.

Section 3. That this act shall take
effect and be in force from and
after its passage.

Approved August 13, A. D. 1870.

State Department of
Austin, J. J. James, P.

Newcomb, Secretary of State for
the State of Texas, do hereby
certify that the foregoing is
a true copy of the original
enrolled bill filed in this office

Witness my hand
and official seal
At office at
Austin this tenth
day of September
A. D. 1870.

James P. Newcomb
Secretary of State
for the State of Texas
at office at
Austin, A. D. 1870.



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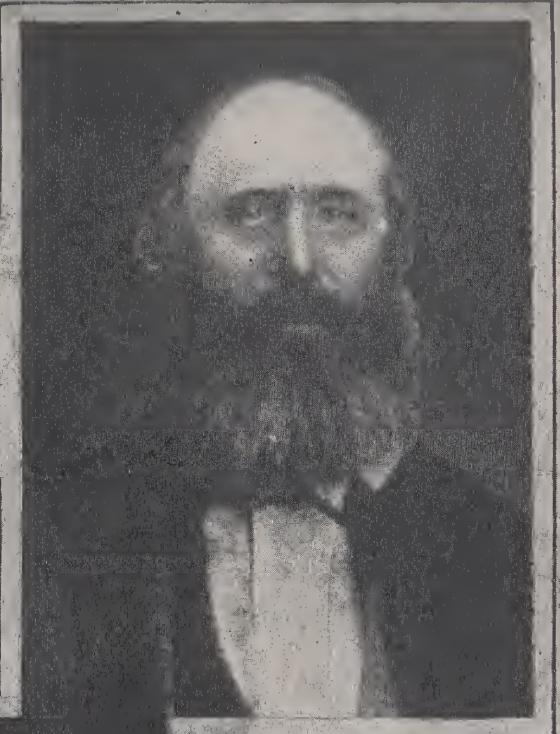
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No. 1, O.D.H.S.



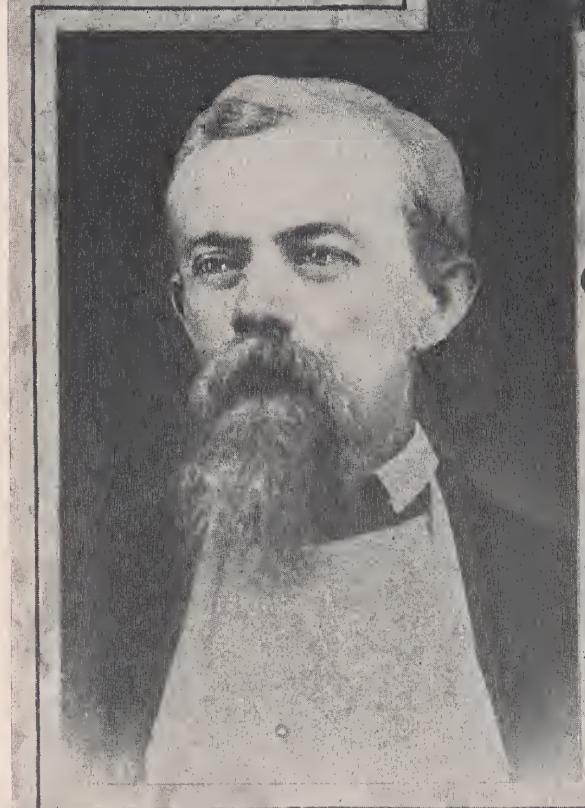
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No. 1, O.D.H.S.

JULY 6, 1861



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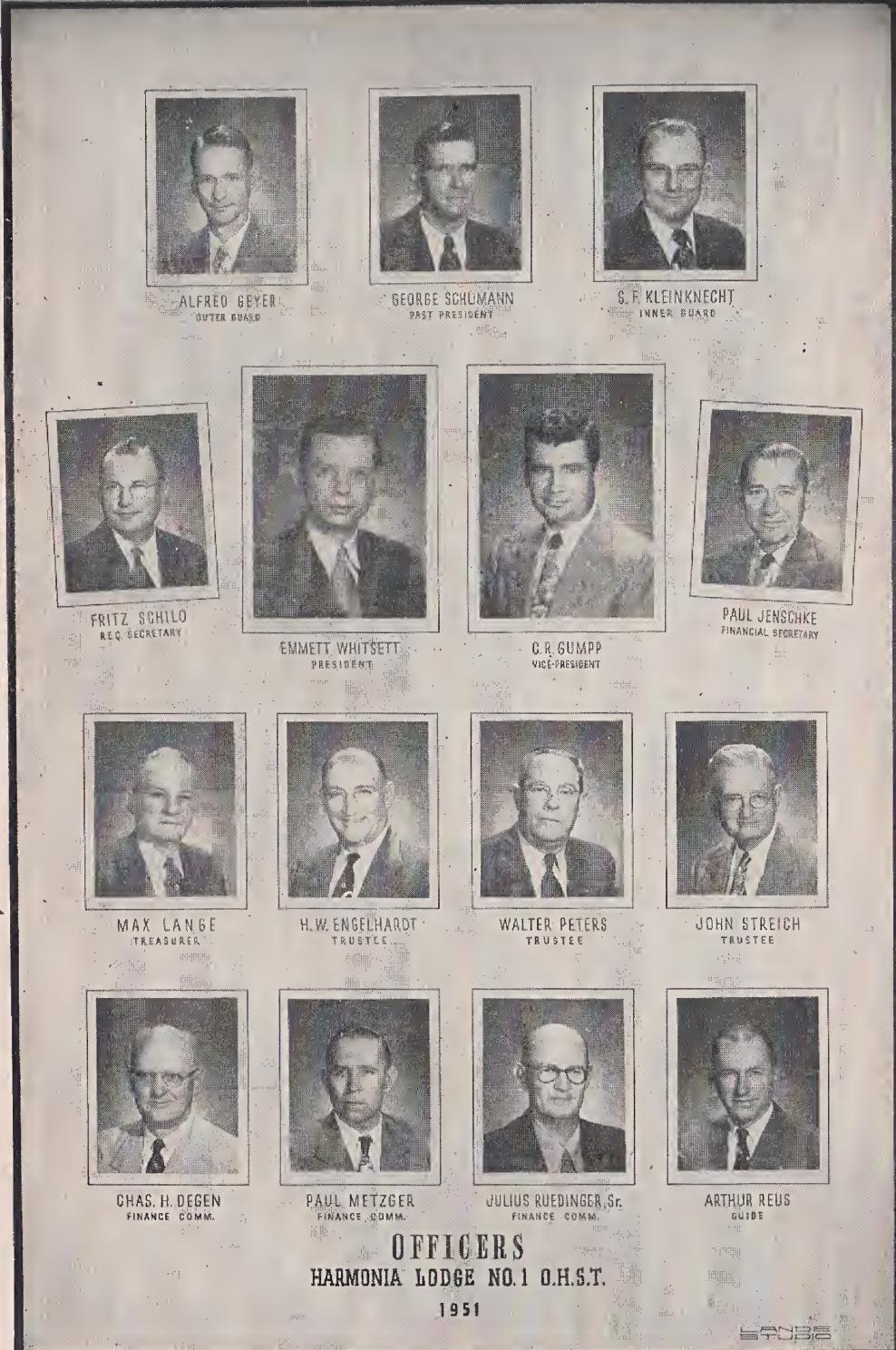
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of
HARMONIA LODGE NO. 1
HERMANN SONS OF TEXAS
From a
SINCERE FRIEND



HARMONIA LODGE'S (90TH) NINETIETH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE
Front Row (left to right)—Carl C. Wurzbach, Fritz Schilo, Chairman. Back Row (left to right)—C. A. Mueller, C. R. "Bob" Gumpf, George Schumann, Emmett Whitsett, President of Harmonia Lodge.

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MORRIS KALLISON
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BROTHERS HAVING APPOINTIVE POSITIONS WITHIN THE LODGE

Front Row (left to right)—C. A. Mueller, Chairman of the Membership Drive, Z. T. Frix, Introduction Committee, Carl Wurzbach, Attorney, W. R. Flynn, Chairman of the Essay Contest, Fritz Schilo, Reporter. Back Row (left to right)—Ray Suhrer, Entertainment Committee, Ed Carr, Jr., Introduction Committee, M. O. Gold, Pianist, Paul Metzger, Entertainment Committee, W. A. Mueller, Loud-Speaker, Verna Caudle, Entertainment Committee.

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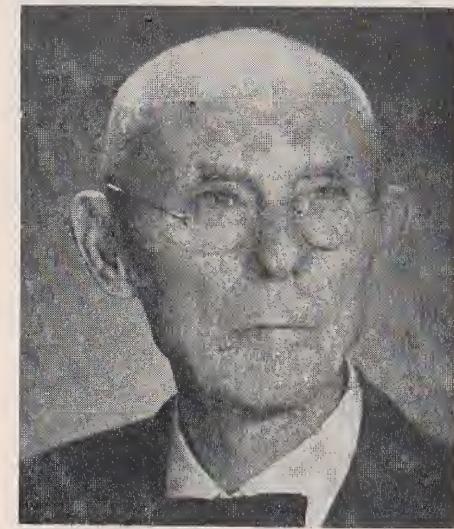
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**Brother Julius Tengg, oldest living Past-President of
 Harmonia Lodge No. 1**

Tengg, Julius	January 1, 1909, to December 31, 1912	
Leighton, T. G.	1914	1916
Jess, Alf. Von	1919	1919
Menk, August	1920	1922
Lange, Max	1923	1924
Hertting, Paul J.	1925	1926
Scholl, Gilbert H.	1927	1932
Schafer, Louis	1933	1934
Biebers, Carl	1935	1937
Lochte, E. R.	1938	1938
Ransleben, Guido	1939	1939
Dielmann, Leo M. J.	1940	1940
Peters, Walter	1941	1941
Wurzbach, Carl C.	1942	1942
Schilo, Fritz	1943	1943
Pfeil, Arthur	1944	1944
Engelhardt, H.	1946	1946
Richter, Ed.	1945	1945
Strosser, "Sonny" John	1948	1948
Mueller, C. A.	1949	1949
Schumann, George	1950	1950
Whitsett, Emmett	1951	

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90TH ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS

TO HARMONIA LODGE No. 1

from

REUS CAFE

East Commerce at Hackberry



Brother Adolph Herff, oldest living member of
Harmonia Lodge No. 1

Members of Harmonia Lodge No. 1 for fifty (50) or
more years:

Dr. Adolph Herff	initiated Jan. 13th, 1881
Wm. G. Wagner	initiated May 1st, 1890
Joseph Rich	initiated March 5th, 1891
George Karges	initiated Aug. 31st, 1892
Sam Phillippi	initiated Dec. 1st, 1892
J. C. Koerth	initiated Nov. 12th, 1893
Anton Gloeckner	initiated Feb. 20th, 1896
Louis Mueller	initiated March 12th, 1896
Dr. Louis Hirshfield	initiated May 12th, 1896
Herman Hirsch	initiated April 23rd, 1897
John Schuh	initiated May 10th, 1897
E. G. Cervantes	initiated Sept. 12th, 1897
Wm. A. Fritze	initiated Sept. 12th, 1897
Tom Tengg	initiated Sept. 12th, 1897
Ed Schunke	initiated Sept. 23rd, 1897
Harry Tolle, Jr.	initiated Feb. 10th, 1898
Fred C. Pfeiffer	initiated March 24th, 1898
Julius E. Hermann	initiated July 14th, 1898
August Menk	initiated Jan. 12th, 1899
C. A. Scheh	initiated Sept. 15th, 1899
Louis Fischer	initiated Dec. 14th, 1899
Robert C. Bogusch	initiated March 27th, 1900
Edward C. Schroeder	initiated May 24th, 1900
Albert Merklen	initiated Aug. 2nd, 1900

CONGRATULATIONS
on the
90TH ANNIVERSARY
of Harmonia Lodge No. 1,
Hermann Sons of Texas,
for their
Progressiveness and Fraternal Spirit
through these years

AKERS FUNERAL HOME
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San Antonio, Texas

Roy Akers

Harmonia Lodge No. 1

Mart P. Kilcoyne

Siemering Lodge No. 32

History of Lodge

Harmonia Lodge of the Order of Sons of Hermann was organized July 6, 1861, under the name of San Antonio Harmonia Lodge No. 1. It is the Mother Lodge of the Order in the State of Texas and for almost thirty years it was the only lodge in this domain. John Lemnitzer, a member of Genesee Lodge No. 10, of Rochester, New York, with John Goll, another member of a northern lodge, who were at that time residing in San Antonio, assembled a number of German-speaking citizens on January 1, 1860, to institute a lodge in San Antonio, Texas. John Lemnitzer, seemingly the leading spirit, asked the National Grand Lodge of New York for authority. However, during this trying period a year elapsed, and on January 8, 1861, he was named a Deputy and after six months' delay the final organization was effected on July 6, 1861.

Charter members of Harmonia Lodge were: Jacob Goll, Chas. Lange, Nic Boubel, W. C. Schaub, A. Markgraf, Magnus Seng, E. Haesler, Joseph Heid, Heinrich Werner, F. J. Ludwig, F. J. Seng and W. Weyel.

First officers elected were: Ex-President, Jacob Goll; President, Chas. Lange; Vice President, W. C. Schaub; Guide, Anton Markgraf; Treasurer, F. J. Ludwig; Secretary, Wm. Weyel; Trustee, Magnus Seng; appointed as second Secretary, F. J. Seng; Outer Guard, J. Heid; Inner Guard, E. Haesler; Finance Committee, Nic Boubel, chairman. All minutes of the lodge were kept in the German language.

The ideals of this new lodge in a sovereign State are best set forth by the introduction or preface as written by the founders on the first page of the first minute book. This book is still intact and in use today after these ninety years of history. It contains the first records of Harmonia Lodge No. 1, O. D. H. S., and the signature of every member

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San Antonio Likes Them.

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90 Years.

Edwin Schroeder

Jack Crawford

of the lodge with the date of his initiation from the founding of the lodge in 1861 to the present.

The minute book contains as a preface the following:

PREFACE

"We hand you herewith the revised constitution of the Order with the hope that the members unite to strive for a closer understanding of our aims and purposes and that each be interested in the welfare of all, for the progress of the whole and for himself. Each and everyone must follow the desire to be helpful to others as he would to his ownself, as this is the foundation for mutual confidence and is essential to avoid friction and dissension. We desire all differences settled equitably. It is the interest of all that the individual is recognized. This is the only practical course and the foundation in forming a new organization in which ideal laws conform to each and all. Our purpose is to be humane, humanity is our goal. If we abide by these standards, our Order will rank among the greatest in the United States and the future membership will bless us as real Sons of Hermann."

Judging by the contents of this preface it is clear that there were no definite business plans, but that the first members had organized only as a brotherhood to be of help to each other.

Only routine minutes were recorded in the first years. The minutes show that on March 29, 1866, a motion was made and a committee appointed to apply for a Charter from the State of Texas. For unknown reasons, however, this was not accomplished until the year 1870.

Finally a charter was granted to the Lodge when the Legislature of the State of Texas passed "an act to incorporate the officers and members of the San Antonio Harmonia Lodge No. 1 O. D. H. S." which was approved August

**Commercial Abstract and
Title Company**

FANNIN 4313

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FROM A FRIEND

CONGRATULATIONS and BEST WISHES
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from

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205 North Presa Street

Garfield 6206

13, 1870. A photographic copy of this original hand-written charter, certified by the Secretary of State of the State of Texas on September 10, 1870, is reproduced herein.

Harmonia Lodge No. 1 has had a long and eventful history. It has grown and progressed with the city of its birth and has remained the largest lodge of the Order. Harmonia Lodge has always contributed a significant share of the leadership throughout the Hermann Sons of this state. The lodge is proud that three of its members have become distinguished Grand Presidents of the Order of the Sons of Hermann in Texas. The first Grand President, Wm. Heuschkel, who was elected in 1890, was a member of the lodge. Fritz Schilo, who served as Grand President from April, 1927, until his death on September 3, 1935, was a member of Harmonia Lodge and proved to be an outstanding Grand President during a period of great progress for the Order. The present Grand President, Carl Biebers, under whose dynamic leadership the Order is rapidly moving forward, is a faithful member and a former President of Harmonia Lodge. At its ninetieth anniversary Harmonia Lodge No. 1 proudly possesses a membership of approximately 2700 and lodge assets of over \$21,000.



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Members of Harmonia Lodge No. 1



MEMBERS OF THE GRAND COMMITTEE

Front Row (left to right)—Paul J. Herting, Grand Secretary-Treasurer, William F. Lehde, 2nd Grand Vice-President, Julius Schramm, Past Grand President, Carl Biebers, Grand President, Harry A. Nass, 1st Grand Vice-President, Dr. Albert Stieler, Grand Physician, Max J. Werkenthin, Actuary. Back Row (left to right)—I. R. Gruss, George Hellmers and Gus Brauning, Members Grand Finance Committee, Albert Kuebel, Bodo Holekamp and Herman J. Windlinger Grand Trustees.

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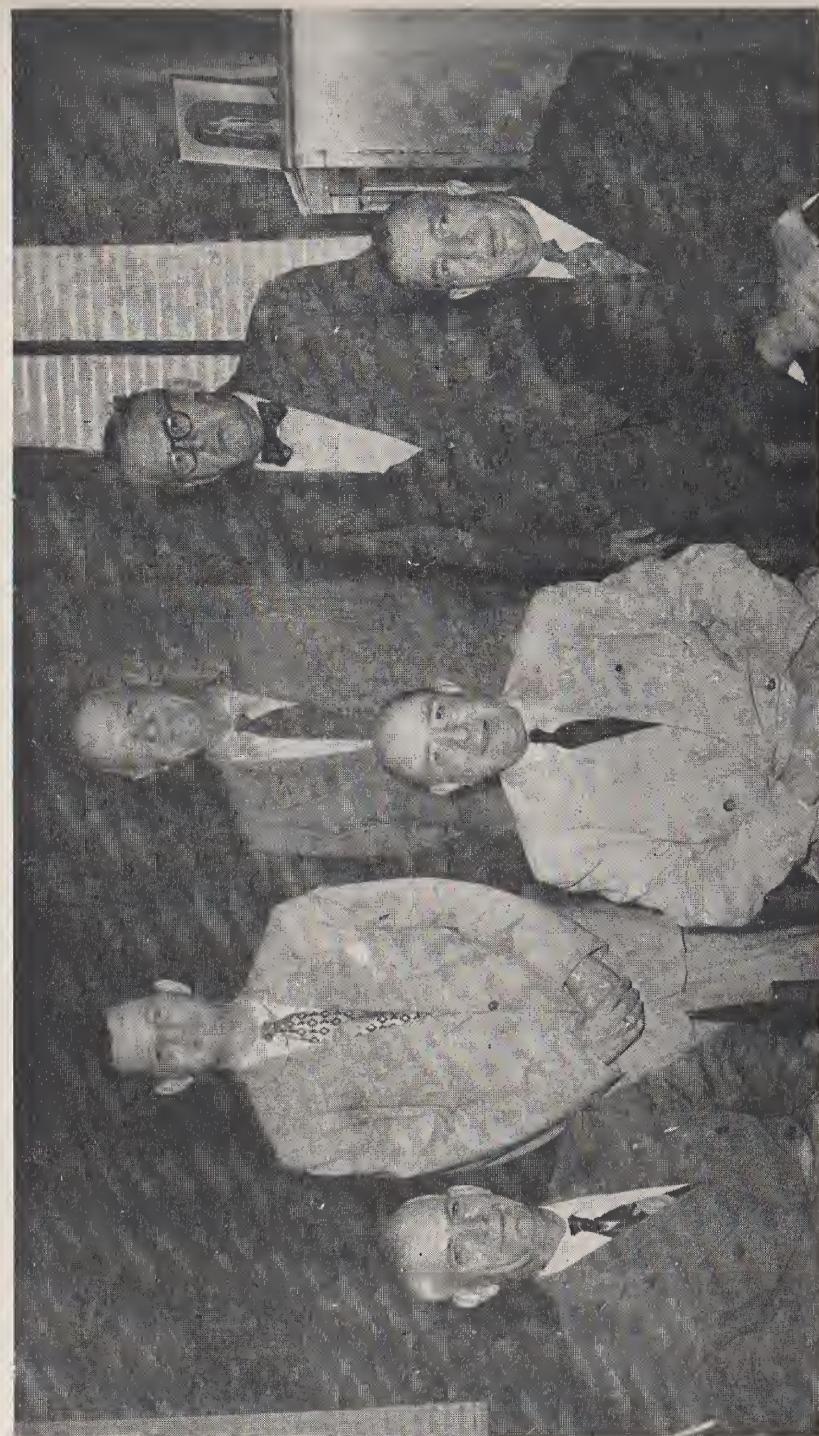
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SALUTES

HARMONIO LODGE No. 1 O. H. S. T.

AND THE MEN OF OUR FIRM WHO ARE MEMBERS



MEMBERS OF HARMONIA LODGE, ELECTED AND APPOINTED AS GRAND LODGE OFFICIALS
Front Row (left to right) : Hermann J. Windlinger, Grand Trustee; Carl Biebers, Grand President; Paul J. Herting, Grand Secretary-Treasurer. Back Row (left to right) : Herman Gosserman, Grand Lodge Attorney; Leo M. J. Diemann, Committee on Home for the Aged; Carl C. Wurzbach, Grand Lodge Attorney.

Chas. W. Schneider

Travis D. Bailey

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We Extend to the Officers and Members
of

HARMONIA LODGE No. 1

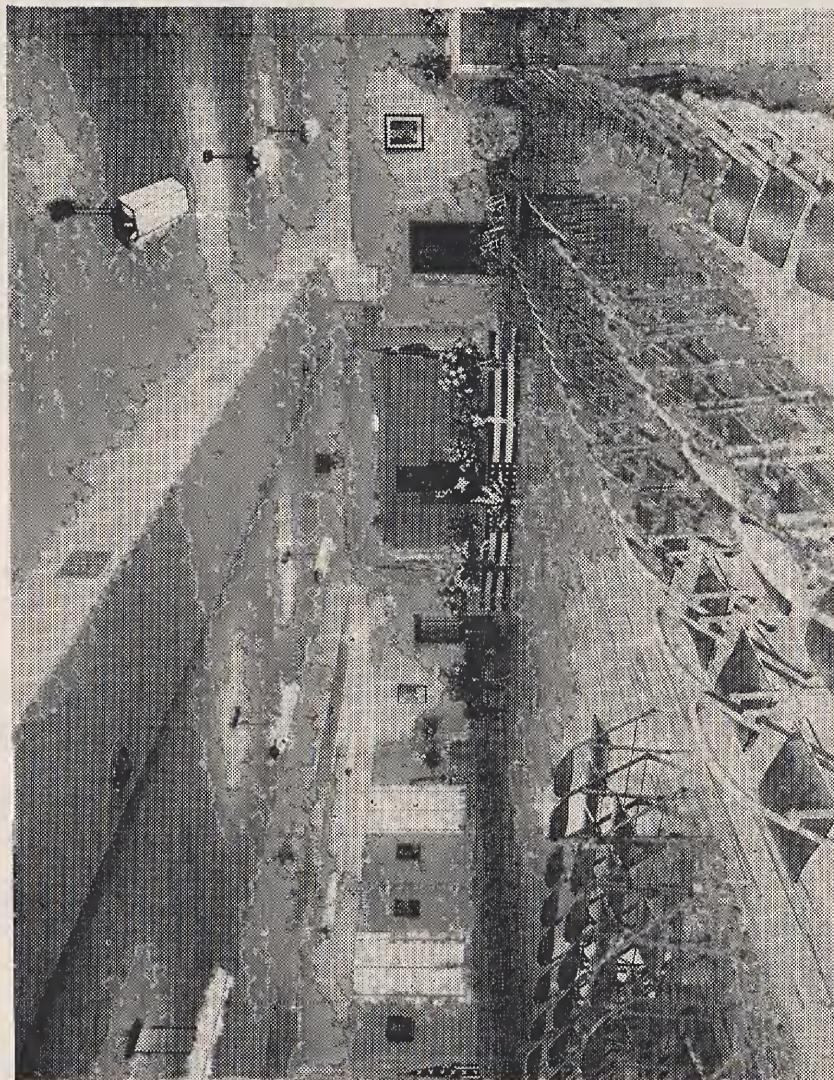
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Upon the Occasion of its
NINETIETH ANNIVERSARY

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of

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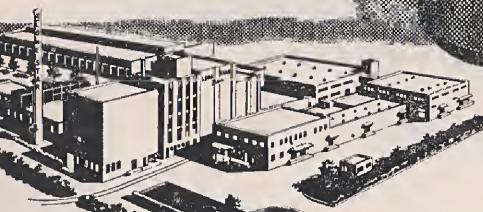


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History of the Order

History records that the Order of the Sons of Hermann was organized during a period of racial unrest for the purpose of uniting into brotherly love the men of all sections, incorporating a ritualistic ceremony and filial affection. It was originally composed of citizens of German descent.

The Order of the Sons of Hermann was organized in New York City in 1840 by a few German descendants and was named after the great German hero "Hermann the Cherusker" who defended the German race against the invading Romans at the battle of the Teutoburger Forest. In 1843 there were three, and in 1847 there were six organizations numbering about 800 members. This worthy movement found recognition in Milwaukee in 1848, where several units were formed and a National Lodge of all Sons of Hermann was organized December 25, 1848. They adopted the motto "Friendship, Love and Truth."

The Order was introduced into the State of Texas with the founding of Harmonia Lodge in San Antonio on July 6, 1861. For almost thirty years Harmonia Lodge was the only representative of the Order in this state.

On February 9, 1871, a resolution of quite some importance was passed whereby the National Grand Lodge was asked to grant permission for founding a State Grand Lodge for Texas, but nothing came of this request. The records do not even show an answer from the National Grand Lodge. This seemingly did not add to the enthusiasm for expansion or for organizing in other localities in the State for the time being. Only after several years, the records reveal, mention was made of forming a lodge in New Braunfels and it did not materialize even then.

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J. J. BIASIOLLI, JR.

The minutes of the Lodge show that Brothers Wm. Heuschkel, Robert Kurts and Emil Callsen were appointed as the first delegates to the National Grand Lodge. In 1889 the Lodge sent Brother Wm. Heuschkel to the National Grand Lodge convention held in St. Louis, requesting a membership solicitor for Texas. This was granted and on January 16, 1890, A. Wenzel arrived and made his plans for a successful membership drive, which spread the Order over the entire State and extended help, good will and friendship.

Due to this enthusiasm new lodges were founded and on February 2, 1890, Eintracht Lodge No. 2, at Austin, Texas, was instituted. Brothers B. Felder, F. M. Gloeckner, J. A. Schmidt and Johann Schutz were sent as a committee to install the second lodge in the state. Immediately following, further lodges were organized in Taylor, Waco, Temple, Brenham, Houston, LaGrange and other cities. Thus the Order of Hermann Sons became an established order in Texas and Harmonia Lodge was no longer alone, after flourishing by itself for so many years.

On March 27, 1890, the first Grand Lodge of Texas of the Sons of Hermann was installed in San Antonio by F. Dickroeger, National Grand President, and W. L. Hesp, National Grand Secretary. Wm. Heuschkel, a member of Harmonia Lodge No. 1, was elected First Grand State President; Julius Schuetze, First Grand State Vice-President; E. Callsen, First Grand Secretary; and G. A. Heilig, Grand State Treasurer. There were then eight subordinate lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, but in a little more than a year the hundredth lodge was established when Jubel Lodge No. 100 was installed at Caldwell, Texas.

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The Texas organization of the Hermann Sons has been a separate entity since the Grand Lodge of the Order of the Sons of Hermann in the State of Texas in 1920 became independent of any national affiliation. As a distinct body the Order in Texas has greatly flourished. Today there are 217 lodges in the State under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge with a total membership of approximately 34,000.

The work and activities of the Grand Lodge expanded so that the office space it had occupied in the San Antonio Home Association Building became entirely inadequate. To meet this need for more room the Grand Lodge purchased a lot on South St. Mary's Street in San Antonio, adjoining the Home Association property, and in 1949 erected a handsome, modern building for its business offices and official headquarters. This beautiful and efficient structure will enable the Order to carry on its affairs more effectively and to keep pace with its enlarging membership and corresponding responsibilities.



We Extend to the Officers and Members of our Mother Lodge
HARMONIA LODGE NO. 1
our very best wishes
and heartiest congratulations
upon the occasion of its
NINETIETH ANNIVERSARY

We appreciate your accomplishments
in the course of these many years;
May you prosper in the future as
heretofore in all fraternal endeavors

THE GRAND LODGE OF THE ORDER OF THE
SONS OF HERMANN IN THE STATE OF TEXAS

CARL BIEBERS, Grand President
PAUL J. HERTTING, Grand Secretary-Treasurer

1861

1951

PROGRAM
90TH ANNIVERSARY
HARMONIA LODGE No. 1

Music	Orchestra
Call to Order	Fritz Schilo
	Chairman of Planning Committee, Master of Ceremonies
“America”	Assembly Accompanied by Orchestra
Pledge of Allegiance	Assembly
Invocation	Rev. Erwin A. Juraschek Tribute to Deceased Members
Address of Welcome	Emmett Whitsett, President of Lodge
Harmonia Lodge Theme Song	M. O. Gold E. H. Niemeyer
Introduction of Distinguished Members and Guests	C. C. Wurzbach Attorney for the Lodge
Presentation of Anniversary Class of Initiates	C. A. Mueller, Membership Chairman
Principal Address	Carl Biebers, Grand President of Order
“The Eyes of Texas”	Assembly Accompanied by Orchestra
Dance	

SWING to
Pearl



The Pearl Brewery
salutes Harmonia Lodge
No. 1 O. H. S. T. on
ninety great years of
progress. For the on-
ward march of decades
yet to come, we tender
our best wishes.



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S. A. Home Ass'n. Board of Directors
Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Secretaries of the San
Antonio Lodges.
Officers of the Hermann Sons Auxiliary organizations.

HARMONIA LODGE'S NINETIETH (90TH)
ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE:

Fritz Schilo, Chairman	Emmett Whitsett, President
Carl C. Wurzbach	of Harmonia Lodge
C. A. Mueller	C. R. "Bob" Gumpf
	George Schumann

RECEPTION COMMITTEE:

C. R. "Bob" Gumpf, Chairman	John "Sonny" Strosser
John Streich	Ed. Richter
W. R. Flynn	Walter Peters
E. W. Dethleffson	Harold Engelhardt
Ray Caperton	Charles Degen
	Frank Karnei
	John C. Hoyo

C. A. Mueller, Chairman of the Membership Drive Committee

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE:

George Schumann, Chairman	Paul Metzger
W. A. Mueller	Elton T. Bishop
	A. C. Geyer

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WHOSE ADVERTISEMENTS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO
THE SUCCESS OF THIS
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THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

OF HARMONIA LODGE NO. 1

WISH TO THANK

BROTHER R. L. READER

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Front Row (left to right) — Max Niedorf, Anton Wenzel Lodge; Chester Simmang, Acting Secretary, Anton Wenzel Lodge; Fred Heberer, Past-President, Werder Lodge; Fritz Rolapp, President, Siemering Lodge; Ed. Richter, Vice-President, Harmonia Lodge; Herbert Reimann, Treasurer, Siemering Lodge. Back Row (left to right) — D. F. Warne, President, Harmonia Lodge; A. P. Ludwig, Siemering Lodge, George Dugosh, Harmonia Lodge; W. E. Adams, Anton Wenzel Siemering Lodge; John "Sonny" Strosser, Harmonia Lodge; W. A. Mueller, Harmonia Lodge; Joseph H. Ruppell, Alamo Lodge; John "Sonny" Strosser, Harmonia Lodge; W. A. Mueller, Harmonia Lodge; Joseph H. Ruppell, Alamo Lodge.

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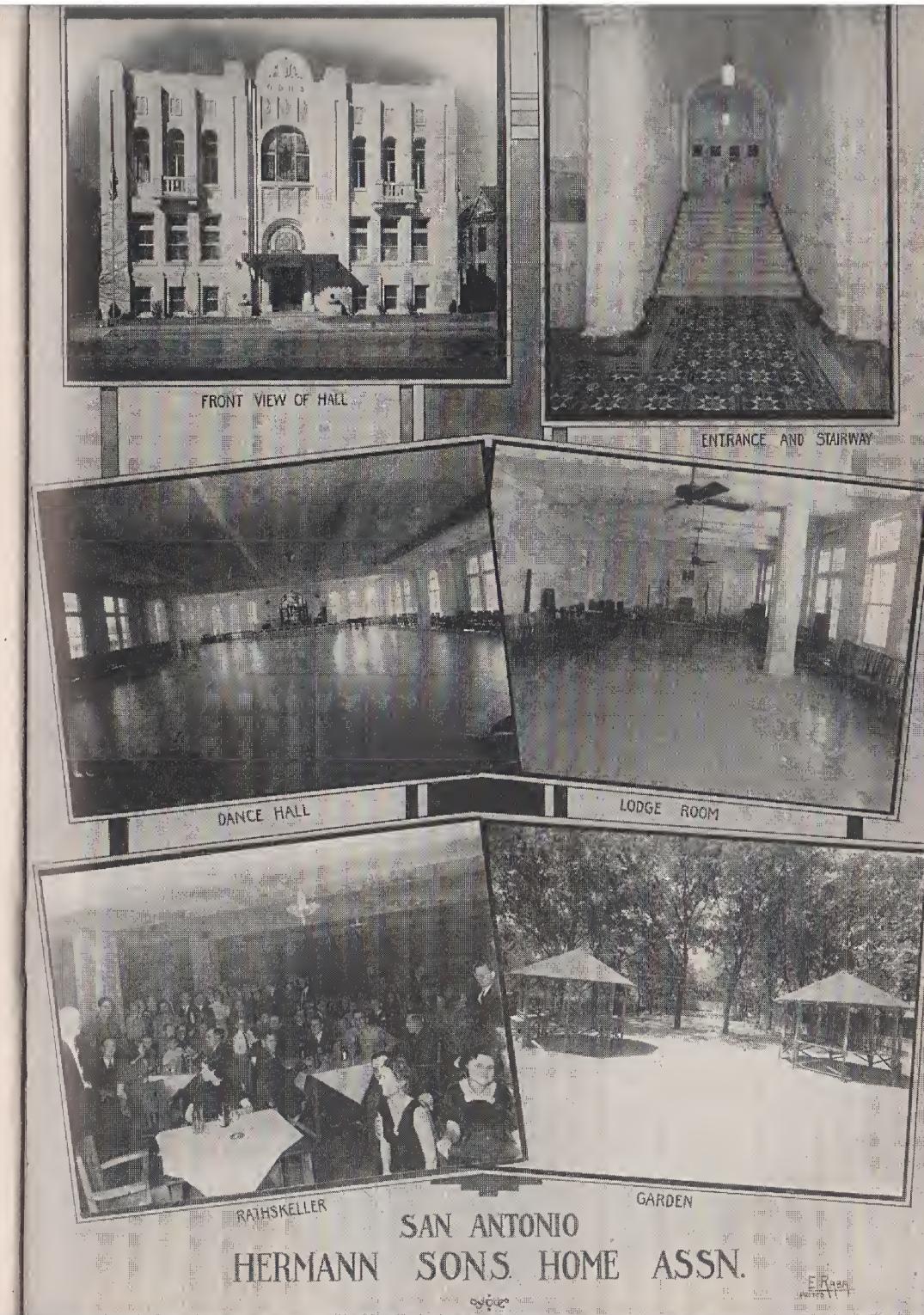
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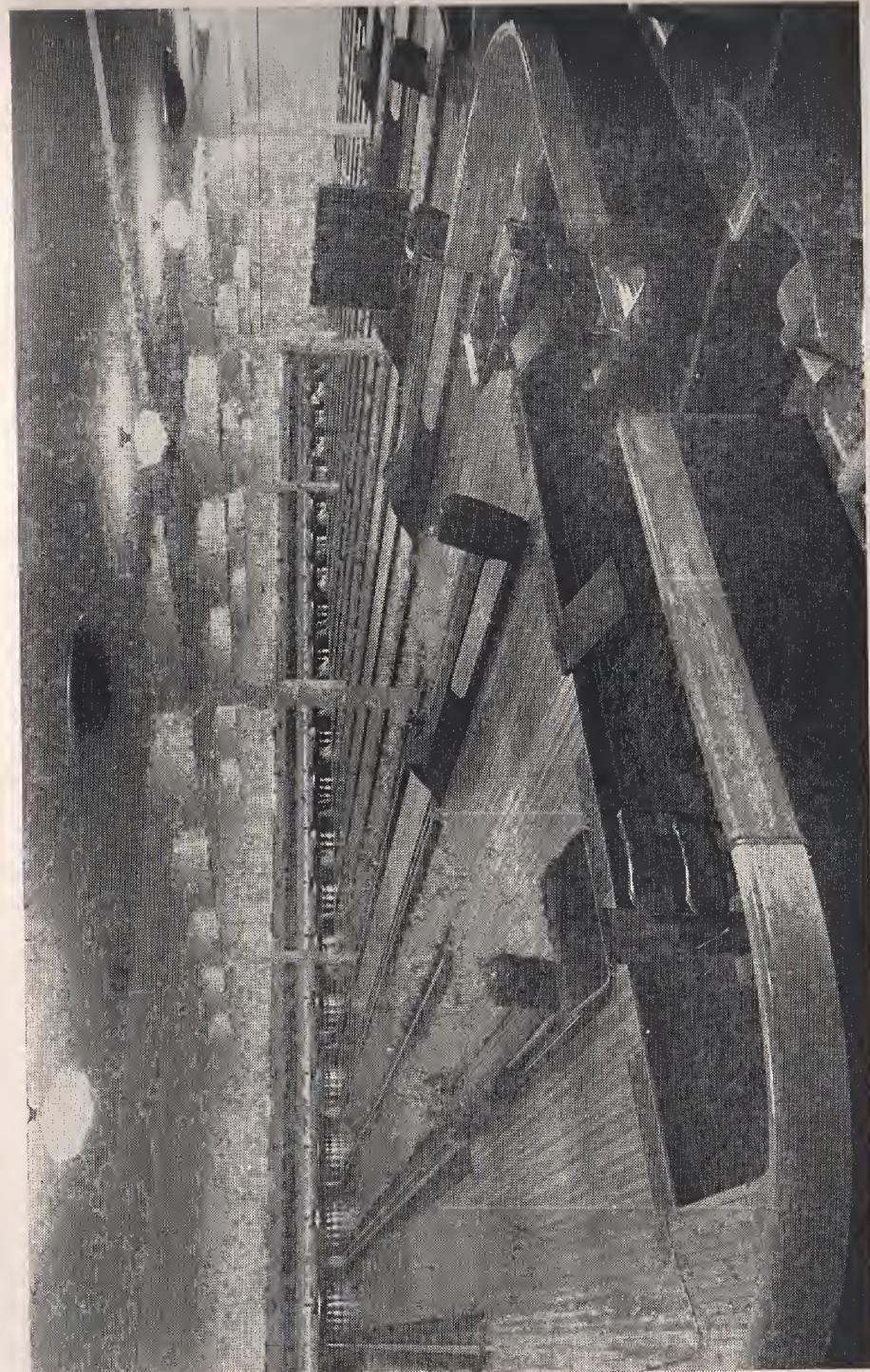
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Harmonia Lodge No. 1 O.H.S.T.

on her 90th BIRTHDAY from

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ANTON WENZEL LODGE No. 174

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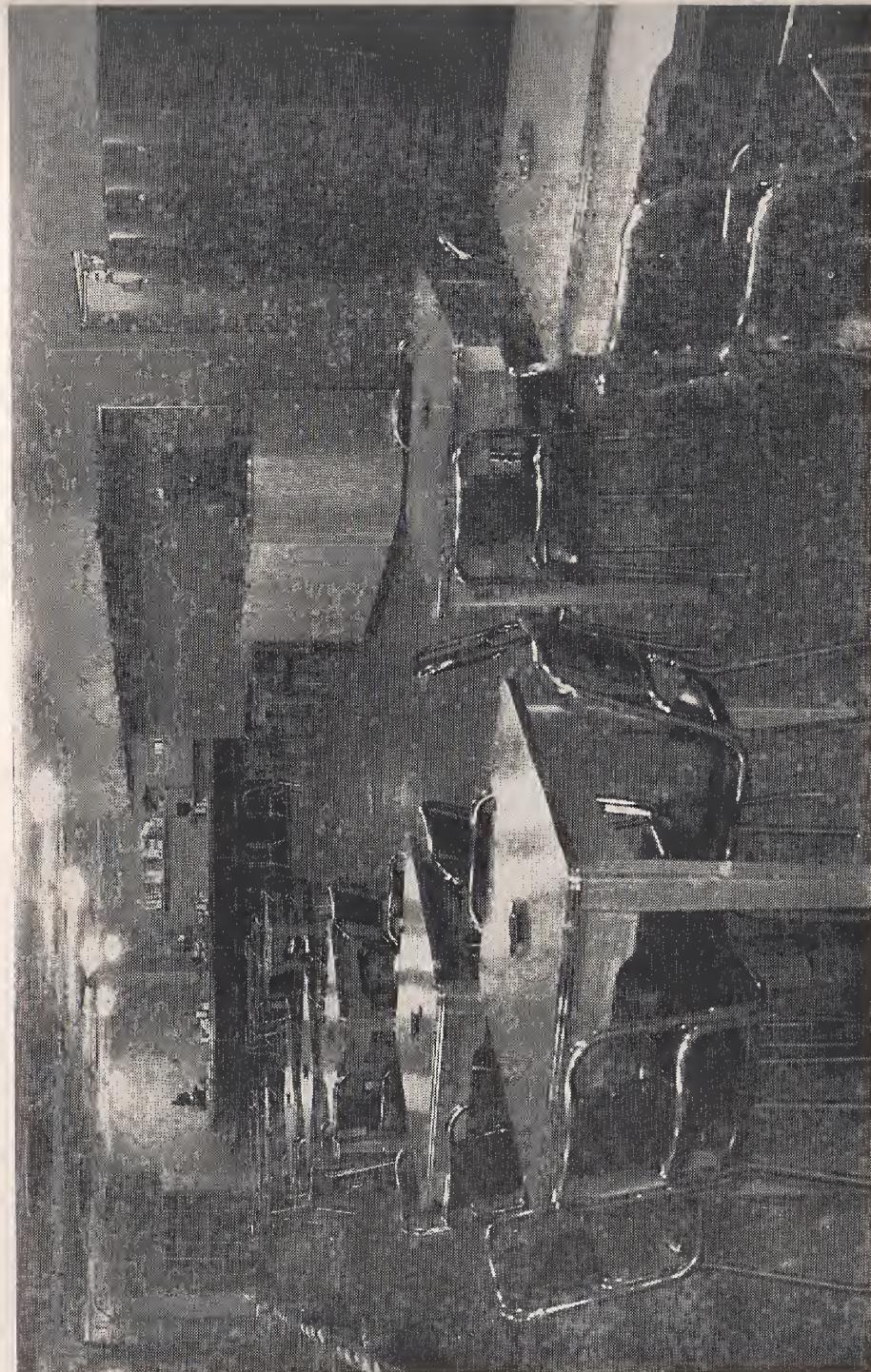
ALAMO LODGE No. 169

LOUISE SCHUETZE LODGE No. 3

VINETA LODGE No. 15

BRUNHILDE LODGE No. 7

PERSHING LODGE No. 160



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Egbert G. Schweppe

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Attorneys for the
GRAND LODGE, HERMANN SONS
OF TEXAS

Congratulate

HARMONIA LODGE No. 1,
on their
90th ANNIVERSARY

Carl C. Wurzbach

Herman Glosserman

San Antonio Hermann Sons Home Association

When other lodges of the Hermann Sons became established in Texas thirty years after the founding of Harmonia Lodge No. 1, additional lodges were organized in San Antonio.

The following lodges have been established in San Antonio since Harmonia was founded:

Brother Lodges:

Siemering Lodge No. 32, organized May 30, 1891.

Werder Lodge No. 80, organized October 14, 1893.

Alamo Lodge No. 169, organized May 26, 1897.

Anton Wenzel Lodge No. 174, organized October 11, 1897.

Sister Lodges:

Louise Schuetze Lodge No. 3, organized September 27, 1896.

Brunhilde Lodge No. 7, organized April 15, 1899.

Vineta Lodge No. 15, organized August 25, 1901.

Mixed Lodge:

Pershing Lodge No. 160, organized April 1, 1920.

In 1890 the first plans were made to buy property and build a home for the local Hermann Sons organization, but not until 1900 did this materialize. At that time through the efforts of John Windlinger, Ernst Dietzmann, F. M. Gloeckner and W. A. Wurzbach of Harmonia Lodge consolidation with members of the other local lodges was effected, and thus the San Antonio Heim Gesellschaft was organized. This led to the purchase of the present grounds on South St. Mary's Street and there the handsome Hermann Sons Hall was built. The new home was dedicated in May, 1912.

The Texas Grand Lodge loaned the Heim Gesellschaft \$20,000.00, and \$22,100.00 in bonds payable in forty years were sold to the membership. The total of this indebted-

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90th ANNIVERSARY
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ness was paid off in twenty years, principally through carnivals held by the Home Association every year.

The officers and directors of the Home Association at the time of the erection of the original building for the Heim Gesellschaft were as follows:

President	Paul Meerscheidt
Vice-President	Jos. Juenger
Secretary	John Windlinger
Treasurer	F. M. Gloeckner
Directors:	Wm. A. Wurzbach
Ernst Dietzmann	Henry Meyer
Otto Riebe	Oswald Achtzehn
Ed. Wolff	P. G. Lucas
David Menk	Paul Machts
Fritz Hensel	J. Wohlfarth
A. Hohrath	Frank J. Bosshardt

In 1938 the Home Association building was enlarged and improved with an extensive addition to the original structure. At this time the officers and directors of the Association were as follows:

President	Carl Biebers
Vice-President	Max Niedorf
Secretary	Henry Riemer
Treasurer	Arthur G. Uhl
Directors:	Walter E. Peters
Arthur Beck	Chas. H. Degen
Frank J. Grimsinger	J. H. Lamm
Albert Hohrath	Emil A. Klar
Robert Jordan	Fritz Schilo

Anticipating future needs of the Home Association, its officers and directors in 1945 purchased the old Duerler homestead, adjoining the Home Association property on the south, for \$35,000.00. The house has now been renovated and is serving as the juvenile recreation center of the Association. The officials of the Home Association when this property was acquired were:

President	Fritz Schilo
Vice-President	S. Rudewick
Secretary	Henry Riemer

CONGRATULATIONS on your 90TH ANNIVERSARY
and BEST WISHES for Continued Success in the Future

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In response to a long-felt need the Home Association in 1948 undertook the construction of an elaborate bowling alley addition to the building. A modern twenty-lane bowling alley was added, with a roof garden on top and parking space underneath at a cost of approximately \$330,000.00. This splendid improvement was dedicated in 1949.

The Board of Directors and officers responsible for this work were:

President	Egbert Schweppe
Vice-President	Ed Richter
Secretary	Ferd. V. Schedler
Treasurer	Chester Simmang
Past President	Arthur G. Uhl, Sr.
Directors:	Fritz Rolapp
W. E. Adams	Frank Karnei
A. P. Ludwig	Joseph Ruppell
Geo. J. Dugosh	Fred Heberer
Sonny Strosser	Max Niedorf

The San Antonio Hermann Sons Home Association has ever since its organization continued to be an active, progressive group bringing together the local lodges of the Order in the co-operative endeavors it has undertaken.



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INSURANCE

The first death of a member of Harmonia Lodge occurred on September 27, 1861, when H. Werner died. The lodge paid for the coffin and grave, which cost \$24.00, and Ed Braden received \$5.00 for hearse hire. His widow is referred to in many succeeding meetings as receiving attention and assistance.

On December 18, 1873, C. Schuchart made the first suggestion to connect life insurance to the lodge. Brothers F. J. Ludwig, H. Eberhardt, W. Heuschkel and W. Schaub were named a committee on the matter. Their report was read March 12, 1874, but no action was taken and in a meeting on June 11 of the same year it was decided to let the matter rest for a while.

On July 1, 1875, the National Grand Lodge was requested to institute life insurance and make it obligatory for the entire order, which finally became effective September 22, 1876. Each brother was entitled to \$300.00 life insurance and \$60.00 at the death of his wife if she preceded him in death. A few years later, due to the financial standing and the gain in membership, this was raised to \$500.00.

However, certain difficulties arose in those early days of the organization. One year seven members died, which required the payment of \$3,500.00 in insurance to their beneficiaries. As the result of that experience a concerted effort to secure new members was put forth and the lodge adopted a plan to pay premiums for the new members obtained. The membership showed a significant gain.

The present system of insurance afforded members of the Order is the result of many years of experience and has been developed to meet both the needs of the membership and sound insurance principles. During the tenure of Fritz Schilo as Grand President a certificate to conform with the insurance laws of Texas was perfected and adopted.

Congratulations to
HARMONIA LODGE No. 1
Order Sons of Hermann
ON THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY

CHAS. W. ANDERSON, County Judge Bexar County
DAN F. TRAUGOTT, County Commissioner, Prec. No. 1
SAM C. BENNETT, County Commissioner, Prec. No. 2
R. L. READER, County Commissioner, Prec. No. 3
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As of December 31, 1950, the Order had in force a total of \$34,971,872.00 of insurance. The annual statement as of December 31, 1950, shows total admitted assets of \$9,617,184.88. The ratio of assets to liabilities is 127.72 %, and Dunne's Insurance Reports, the largest policy holders reporting service in the world, gives the insurance issued by the Grand Lodge a rating of A plus (Excellent).



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J. J. KRZESNIAK	DAVID WHEELER
ROBERT WHITE	

OTHER ANNIVERSARIES

Harmonia Lodge celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary January 30, 1886, at San Pedro Park under the direction of President Peter Hoefgen with a banquet, ball and parade in which the National Grand Officers, Fritz Reifestuhl, National Grand President, and Fritz Reuter and Victor Schlitz, participated. At this Silver Anniversary Jacob Goll, first ex-president of Harmonia Lodge, was presented with a gold medal. On this occasion the ladies of the brethren made Harmonia Lodge a gift of a beautiful flag which the lodge still retains.

The fortieth anniversary was observed with a banquet, theatrical performance and ball at the Mission Garden. At this time Ernst Dietzmann was president of the lodge.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Order of the Sons of Hermann, which had been organized in New York in 1840, was celebrated in San Antonio on July 14, 1890, at San Pedro Springs.

Harmonia Lodge became fifty years old in 1911. On December 8, 1910, a committee composed of F. M. Gloeckner, Theo. Engelhardt, Ed. Kutschenreuter, E. Dietzmann, Gottlieb Zellweger, Julius Tengg and Conrad Flraig was named to arrange the Golden Anniversary of the lodge. This occasion was held during the Grand Lodge Session in San Antonio in May, 1911, and celebrated in grand style at the Beethoven Hall. Julius Tengg was president at this Golden Anniversary. At the celebration he presented to Brothers F. M. Gloeckner and Ernst Dietzmann tokens of appreciation for their untiring, painstaking fidelity to the Lodge and Order.

The sixtieth anniversary observance was postponed because of the great flood in San Antonio in 1921. Instead, the financial proceeds were distributed to the unfortunate under the direction of President August Menk.

COMPLIMENTS and BEST WISHES to HARMONIA LODGE No. 1
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On Their 90th ANNIVERSARY

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In 1931 the seventieth anniversary of the lodge was held on July 12th. Gilbert H. Scholl was president at that time and a huge country picnic, barbecue, dancing, singing, music and other entertainment were enjoyed at the beautiful country home of Brother Wm. A. Wurzbach, where members and their families and friends were welcomed.

Another epoch in the history of Harmonia Lodge No. 1 was marked by the observance of its seventy-fifth anniversary. This significant occasion was held on Sunday, July 5, 1936, at the Hall in San Antonio, with the Governor of Texas, James V. Allred, as the principal speaker. A dance was held following the program. All Ex-Presidents of the lodge were in charge of the celebration. Brother Carl Biebers, the present Grand President of the Order, was president of the lodge during its seventy-fifth anniversary year. At its Diamond Jubilee the Lodge boasted 788 members and excellent financial standing as the result of able leadership and strict business methods.

As a tribute to Fritz Schilo, Sr., a member of Harmonia Lodge and Grand President of the Order from 1927 until his death in 1935, a commemorative service was held May 20, 1945, at the Hermann Sons Hall in San Antonio. On this occasion grateful recognition was given for the services of this outstanding leader whose memory was thus honored.



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CHRONOLOGY

FIRST LOCATIONS: Searching for the first meeting house, the records disclose, the lodge rented for use as a hall a house owned by a Mr. Superville, an attorney, on South Alamo Street between Market and East Commerce Street, in the rear of the present Oppenheimer Building. Owing to an increase in rent to \$10.00 monthly, Brother F. J. Seng on July 19, 1862, offered his home gratis, and here the lodge met until August 19, 1862. The minutes disclose that on December 19, 1863, another locality was sought and on March 12, 1864, Fischer's second story was secured.

October 19, 1865: The minutes disclose that Umscheidt's place was rented at \$8.00 a month.

January 4, 1866: The I.O.O.F. offered their lodge room at \$5.65 a month with payment of half the cost of coal oil for lamps and lights.

September 6, 1866: Lodge headquarters was moved to San Antonio Arbeiter Vereins Halle, at the corner of East Commerce and Bonham Streets, where the rent was \$5.00 a month. This building is still standing.

May 1, 1867: This date found the lodge meeting in Meyers Hall (formerly on Alamo Plaza, west side).

June 1, 1871: An agreement to take Turner (Karber's) Hall was entered into but was not carried out, and on November 9th the new rooms of the I. O. O. F. were rented at \$10.00 a month for six months beginning in December.

April 10, 1878: The new hall of the I. O. O. F., with ten gas jets for lighting, was rented.

February 7, 1883: Lodge moved to Fire Company No. 1 Hall, Market Street (where the San Antonio Drug Company building now stands).

April 30, 1891: Rented Krisch Hall, corner West Houston and North Flores Street (where Sugarman Bros. store is now located).

May 26, 1892: Moved to Villita and South St. Mary's Streets into a two-story building; downstairs was occupied by the Grand Lodge and upstairs by the lodges.

May, 1912: Moved to present magnificent building of Home Association on South St. Mary's Street.

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1938: Home Association building enlarged by substantial addition.

1945: Duerler Homestead on South St. Mary's Street adjoining Home Association property acquired by Association; now being used as juvenile recreation center.

1948-49: 20-lane bowling alley with parking garage and roof garden added to Home Association building at approximate cost of \$330,000.00.

1949: Erection of imposing Grand Lodge headquarters building on South St. Mary's Street adjoining Home Association property.

INTERESTING HISTORICAL FACTS

NO CHAIRS: The old minutes of the Lodge present an interesting study in the development of procedure of the lodge meetings from the primitive start in the early days. For instance, at first each member was required to bring his own chair if he desired to be seated at the meeting.

FEES: The original initiation fee for membership in the Lodge was \$5.00 and the regalia cost \$2.25.

DISQUIETING TIMES: The early initiation was more secret than that of today. The old minutes show that they recorded during the critical days of that period only necessary data for fear of exposure. It is noted from the minutes that attendance at the meetings was obligatory. The records show that during the time of the Civil War a member was excused from one meeting on the grounds that he was unable to attend because of the "disquieting times" and a fear to leave his family alone.

HOLIDAYS: In the old days members nevertheless made the most of their good times. The usual holidays were celebrated and commemorated annually, especially the joyful Yuletide season with a decorated Christmas tree with gifts for the children and entertainment for all. The members held Volksfests, Concerts, Musicals, Dances, Parades, Masquerade Balls, and would support festivals of the Krieger Verein, Jaegerlust and other societies.

TRAVELING CARDS: Traveling cards were continually issued in 1862 and thereafter for periods extending to

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Anton Wenzel Lodge No. 174

1865. Six and more months were granted to members called to the Colors. On August 30, 1862, only five members being present, it was decided to meet on the last night of each month only.

DUES PAYMENTS: Payments of dues are recorded in Specia and Notes and on June 27, 1863, payment in Confederate money was accepted at 50c value in lieu of silver, while Mexican dollars were accepted at par up to January 17, 1878. Sick benefits were paid in Confederate money and accounts were carried in the kind of monies as paid in by members. In 1866 it was ordered that \$2.00 currency be accepted at \$1.25 value in silver.

LODGE RULES: The lodge was strict in demanding attendance and carrying out duties, and would suspend or drop members from the rolls as punishment.

INCORPORATED: On January 21, 1864, Harmonia Lodge No. 1, O. D. H. S., was incorporated.

MEMBERSHIP: In 1866 the lodge had thirty-one members.

RECEIPTS: On August 4, 1870, the lodge authorized its first printed receipts.

LOANS: The first cash loan of \$100.00 was made on August 2, 1866.

CHOLERA: In September, 1866, cholera was raging in San Antonio, and this fact is recorded in the minutes.

BY-LAWS: On September 8, 1870, By-Laws were submitted to the National Grand Lodge, F. J. Miller, Secretary, 193 Second Street, New York City, for approval.

CHICAGO CONFLAGRATION: November 2, 1871, the lodge donated \$300.00 to the Chicago conflagration sufferers.

TIME CLOCKS: On November 23, 1871, the clocks having such irregular time, members were told to guide the hour by the Kampmann Factory whistles (located then on Nacogdoches Street).



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HANDY-ANDY

INSURANCE: On September 7th and 21st, 1876, various systems were suggested to organize an Insurance Association.

CEMETERY: The City of San Antonio through Hon. J. H. French, Mayor, on November 6, 1877, donated to Harmonia Lodge No. 1, O. D. H. S., a Cemetery on Paso Hondo Street, San Antonio, Texas. (The full deed to this donation is entered on the minutes of March 14, 1899. The cemetery was cleared and fenced in and is under the care of the Lodge Trustees.)

NATIONAL ORDER MONUMENT: The erection of the monument to the O. D. H. S. at New Ulm, Minnesota, was a magnificent demonstration by the Order. Harmonia Lodge was invited to attend the laying of the corner stone held on June 24, 1888. Contribution to this monument had been made as early as September 30, 1886.

PREMIUMS: The minutes of May 2, 1889, state that a premium of \$1.00 was to be paid to the member securing new applicants.

GERMAN SCHOOL: On May 24, 1894, the three local lodges which then existed in San Antonio formed the German School, which was presided over by a committee selected from these lodges. This German School was carried on successfully for many years with large attendance, and many of San Antonio's prominent citizens received at least part of their education at this institution.

HONORARY MEMBERS: Harmonia Lodge had three Honorary Members who were elected by the lodge; they were:

Nic Boubel, named in 1905 as a former Charter Member, died September 27, 1919, at the age of 102 years.

Nic Tengg was elected September, 1909, and died July 19, 1927.

Louis Kietzel was elected February 8, 1912, and died November 20, 1928.

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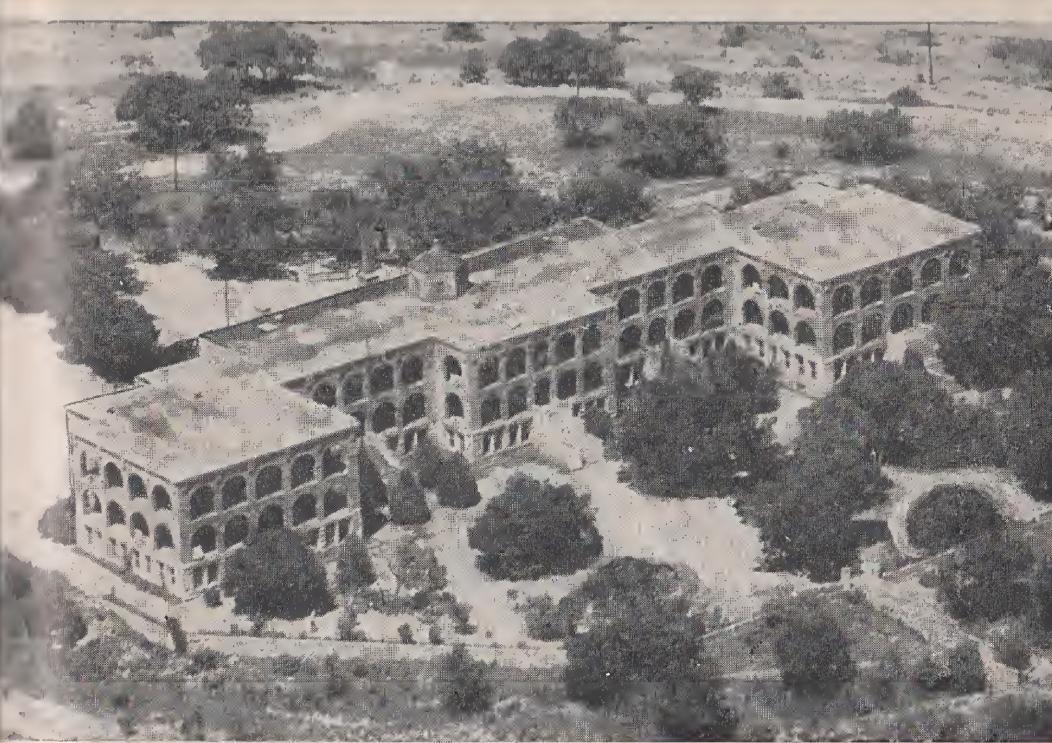
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Of the 200-acre tract of land comprising the home property, a farm of seventy-five acres is kept in cultivation, and has brought some good yield on crops utilized for Home use as well as the market.

For the convenience of the resident members an elevator has been installed only recently. The home, of course,

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had to undergo many repairs and improvements in the course of the years; it has been the consistent effort of the Grand Lodge to keep this home in tip top shape so that the members of the Order might spend the rest of their life there in comfort and happiness.

Admission into the Home is restricted to insurance carrying members of the Order of the Sons of Hermann who have reached the age of 65 years. The only prerequisite for such admission is the conveyance of the insurance certificate of such member to the Home, for its use and benefit. If the present cost of living is considered, it can very well be seen that such prerequisite does not suffice and cover the sustenance of resident members, and that it requires transfer of additional funds, particularly contributed by all members of the Order, to provide for these resident members.

Entertainment is furnished the old members on various occasions during the year, highlighted by an impressive Christmas celebration with gifts for all.

The merchants and citizens of the city of Comfort and the local lodges there have done much for the entertainment and welfare of the resident citizens of the Home, which is likewise visited frequently by members of surrounding local lodges, some of whom have held their meetings there with the resident sisters and brothers participating. The home grounds offer fine picnic facilities and various local lodges, singing groups have made it an annual affair to meet there, inviting the resident members along with the manager and employees of the Home.

The Grand President and Grand Secretary along with the Committee of the Home for the Aged, at present consisting of Leo M. J. Dielmann, Marie Heiling and Alma Koenig, administer the affairs of the Home. Kerman Prince is manager of the Home, and he has a very good assistant in his wife, Edna W. Prince.

Members of Harmonia Lodge No. 1 residing at the Home are: Brothers Herman Diercks, Anton Gloeckner, Carl Volz.

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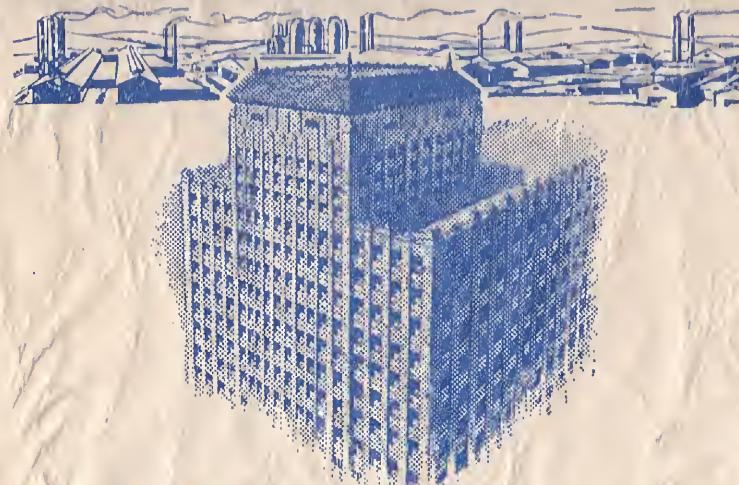
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Sincere best wishes for ever-continuing success to Harmonia Lodge No. 1, O.S.H.T. on the event of your 90th Anniversary.

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